

Update On TC1600 Restriction Practice Action Plan

On October 6, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announced the start of an action plan to improve quality and respond to customer needs by establishing best practices related to restrictions on the number of inventions and/or claim sets in biotechnology, pharmaceutical and organic chemistry patent applications examined in Technology Center 1600 (TC 1600).

To update the status of this action plan, a first phase of examiner training has been completed. This training focused on the basic principles of restriction requirements, and included a review of linking claims, Markush practice, and rejoinder issues. To exemplify the proper format and justification of a restriction requirement, the training material included sample claim sets and corresponding restriction requirements.

The training materials have been posted on the USPTO web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/guides.htm>.

Questions or comments concerning the training examples may be addressed to Deborah Reynolds by phone at 571-272-0734 or via electronic mail addressed to Deborah.Renolds@uspto.gov.